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News Release

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Airstrip Fire reaches objectives, Scott Fire to be suppressed

Tusayan, Ariz., July 08, 2016—For Immediate Release. Due to changing weather conditions in the forest that are now causing higher risks and exposure to firefighters, officials have decided to implement a suppression strategy for the wildfires being managed on the Tusayan Ranger district on the Kaibab National Forest.

The Airstrip Fire has currently reached the perimeters within the planning area that were pre-set to stop forward progression and is no longer expected to grow. Crews successfully completed final ignitions along the south east boundary of the fire yesterday evening and will now begin mop up and patrolling to hold containment lines in place. Approximately 679 acres were burned and managers are pleased with the results which met the desired objectives that were identified for this fire. Although smoke will continue to be visible, volume is expected to decrease dramatically over the next few days as the fire settles.

The Scott Fire experienced much higher winds over the last two days which influenced a significant increase in fire behavior causing an acceleration in growth bringing the total burned area to 1730 acres. Officials continue to observe positive effects that correlate with land management objectives however strategies have been changed to ensure the protection of fire personnel and the public.

“With warmer temperatures and higher winds predicted over the next several days, we have decided that suppression is the best course of action at this time” said Tusayan District Ranger Christina Pearson. “Firefighter and public safety is our number one objective and we will only engage this fire when there is a high probability of success without putting people at risk.”

Both fires will continue to produce some visible smoke that will be seen from the communities of Tusayan, Valle, Cameron, Tuba City, and from both rims of the Grand Canyon. Smoke is expected to decline significantly from the Airstrip Fire but will remain more noticeable from the Scott Fire over the next few days.

Additional fire information for the Kaibab National Forest can be obtained through the following sources: InciWeb <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4840/> <http://inciweb.nwcg.gov/incident/4839/> ; Kaibab National Forest Fire Information Phone Line (928) 635-8311; Text Message – text ‘follow kaibabnf’ to 40404.

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